



**NATIVE FISH AUSTRALIA (Vic) Inc.**  
[www.nativefish.asn.au](http://www.nativefish.asn.au)  
PO Box 162 Doncaster 3108

Michael Burgess  
EO VRFish  
PO Box 4574  
Geelong 3220

Dear Michael

**Re: Continued membership of VRFish**

I have been tasked with contacting you to help determine our continued membership of VRFish. At a recent committee meeting it was decided that I should write to you expressing our concerns, and give you the opportunity to respond to these concerns, before we discuss and vote on the issue at our next committee meeting.

As you well know Native Fish Australia (Vic) is a founding member of VRFish and was instrumental in its foundation. We continue to believe in the need for a true peak body that represents its members to government and other stakeholders

Concerns/Issues raised include:

- The lack of any real communication/consultation on native fish issues to member organisations.
- The support of other native fish groups in preference to Native Fish Australia (Vic).
- The lack of any real support for issues raised by Native Fish Australia (Vic).
- Many of our members believe VRFish has become too political and has lost sight of why and how it was originally formed.
- We fail to understand how free individual membership can be incorporated into a peak body organisation.
- The perception that VRFish is not active in freshwater issues raised by member organisations.
- The perception that VRFish is simply a support organisation for the VFA.
- We understand a new strategic plan has just been adopted. Was there any input from member organisations? Was the new plan available for comment when in draft form?
- What supports are available/provided for member organisations?

A timely and comprehensive response would be appreciated. This will help further discussions and ultimately guide making a decision regarding our future involvement with VRFish.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Curmi".

Tim Curmi  
President  
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26 September 2020